

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for transferring data from a data source to a service broker comprising the steps of:
 - providing a data source and a service broker; providing a moderator for receiving the data transferred by the data source; providing a data store for storing data received by the moderator; providing a communications module for transferring data from the data store;
 - transferring data from the data source to the moderator;
 - storing the data received by the moderator in the data store;
 - adaptively determining a polling frequency; and
 - polling the communications module for the data on the data store and forwarding the polled data to the service broker, whereby data is transferred between the data source and the service broker.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a virtual representation of the service broker on the data source; and wherein the data sent is related to or associated with the virtual representation; and further comprising the step of updating the virtual representation when the service broker receives the data sent by the data source.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data transferred from the data source to the moderator is performed using the HTTP protocol.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data transferred from the moderator to the service broker is performed via the HTTP protocol.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred using name/value pairs.
6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the data is a command for changing the state of the service broker and wherein the virtual representation is updated when the state of the service broker is changed.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data store is a queue of commands.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data transferred from the data store to the service broker is initiated by the service broker.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one device is connected to the service broker and wherein the command is received by the service broker and forwarded to the at least one connected device.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polling frequency is adaptively selected, at least in part, based upon the performance overhead of the system.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polling frequency is adaptively selected, at least in part, based upon monitored conditions.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polling frequency is adaptively selected, at least in part, based upon a set of criteria that are used in an algorithm to determine the polling frequency, the pattern or amount of queued data, the closeness of the sender to the source of the transactions, the usage patterns of the client, and the daily usage patterns of the client.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the algorithm is a statistical averaging algorithm.